Vol. VIII. Numb. 23

THE OBSERVATOR.

Farther Remarks on the bad Conditions of thoſe concern'd in the Silk-Trade, and the Damage done to the Commerce of the Nation by general Mournings. More Reflexions on Dr. Sacheverell's *5th of* November *Sermon. A Vindication of the Author of the Reflexions upon it, from a Miſtake he is charg'd with as to Arch-biſhop* Laud; *and his farther Arguments to prove the High Church Interpolation of the 20th Article.*

From **Wednesday**, November 30. to **Saturday**, December 3. 1709.

Country-m. I Want to have ſome farther Diſcourſe with you, Maſter, about the great Decay of our Silk-Trade, and how it not only affects thoſe immediately concern'd in it, but, by modeſt Computation, 500000 People, through the whole Nation.

Obſ. With all my Heart, *Roger*; for the more that Matter is enquir'd into, the more conſiderable it appears to be, and deſerves the moſt ſerious Conſideration of our Legiſlature.

Country-m. Here are ſeveral Advices ſent you ſince our laſt, Maſter, on that Subject, which fully prove what you ſay. Let's diſcourſe upon them, if you pleaſe.

Obſ. You may go on with them, *Roger*, in order as they lie. I am ready to hear you, and willing to poſtpone ſome other Subjects, ſince this appears to be of ſuch an univerſal Concern.

Country-m. Here's one Memoir which fully proves the great Decay of that beneficial Trade, Maſter; and tells us 'tis ſo much fallen at *Canterbury* alone, that whereas the Maſter Work-men us'd to pay 700 *l. per* Week to Journey-men there, they don't now pay them above 50 *l. per* Week.

Obſ. That's a dreadful Fall indeed, *Roger!* 13 Parts in 14 in one Town; the neceſſary Conſequence of which is, that inſtead of 14 Parts employ'd formerly, here's but one, ſo that 13 muſt want Employment, or betake themſelves to other Buſineſs; and ſince 'tis evident, that we have not Employment enough in any other Buſineſs for thoſe who want it, here's 13 Parts that muſt either beg, and be a Burden to the whole Nation, or to their particular Pariſhes; for conſidering how long the general Mourning has continu'd, we have Reaſon to think, that thoſe 13 Parts have ſpent all they were able to lay up, before this Time; and by neceſſary Conſequence muſt either be a Burden to the Nation, or their particular Pariſhes, or have remov'd out of the Country, which is worſe; for as People are the intrinſick Wealth of the Kingdom, the Loſs of every Perſon is the Loſs of ſo much of our Capital Stock; for by that Means we not only loſe the Profits of their Induſtry, but what they conſum'd of our native Product, and what we might have reap'd by their Propagation, which would have added ſo much to our Home Conſumption, beſides what it would have added to our Trade of Export and Import; but ſince theſe Things are above the Reach of the common People, I will make it plain to you by Computation.

Country-m. Pray do, Maſter; for it wants Explanation, to make common Tradeſmen, and us Country People, underſtand it: Nay, I am afraid, Maſter, 'tis not well enough underſtood even by Perſons of a higher Rank; for there's not many of them who give themſelves the Trouble to ſtudy what you call political Arithmetick; they leave that to Stateſmen.

Obſ. You ſay very well, *Roger*; and we know, from fatal Experience, that whatever may be ſaid of thoſe who are at the Helm now, whoſe Capacity and Honeſty we are not to queſtion, we have in former Times had Stateſmen, who, inſtead of ſtudying the Advantage of the Nation, the Improvement of our Trade, and by Conſequence the Increaſe of the Revenue of the Crown, their chief Study was, how to raiſe Eſtates to themſelves, and to ſupport their particular Factions. But to come to our Purpoſe, *Roger*, according to the Scheme of the *Income and Expence of the ſeveral Families of England*, calculated for the Year 1688, by Mr. *King*, *Lancaſter*-Herald, in Dr. *Davenant*'s *Eſſay upon the probable Methods of making a People Gainers in the Ballance of Trade*, pag. 16. the annual Income *per* Head of Artizans and Handicrafts, is reckon'd 9*l.* 10 *s.* which, one with another, is very modeſt; ſo that according to this Computation, there's 6175 *l. per Ann.* loſt in the Silk-Trade in the City of *Canterbury* alone, merely by the Loſs of Work. Then, if we conſider this, according to the Rule of Proportion, how much muſt be loſt by the Decay of that Trade thro' the whole Kingdom *per Ann.* only by Workmanſhip, ſince, as thoſe concern'd in it ſay in their Paper ſent us, it us'd to employ 200000 Hands one way or other? If we reckon but 8 *l. per Ann.* a Hand, that will amount to 1600000 *l. per Ann.* in Loſs of Work, beſides what the Maſter Work-men loſe of the Profits they made by the Labour of the Work-men, and the Improvement of their Stocks, which, if the Number of People employ'd be juſt, can amount to no leſs than 2000000 *per Ann.* but abating one half, or reducing it to one fourth, becauſe we would not aggravate, and we can ſcarcely ſuppoſe them to be ſo much miſtaken, the Loſs of 500000 *l. per Ann.* in this Branch of Trade, deſerves the moſt ſerious Conſideration of our Legiſlature.

Country-m. I am afraid you have reduc'd it too low, Maſter; but 'tis better in ſuch Caſes to be under than over. Here's other Inſtances, however, to prove the great Decay of that Trade; and the firſt is, that there's one Maſter Work-man who us'd to pay 35 *l. per* Week, for working Ribbons, and now he ſcarce pays 40 or 45 *s. per* Week: and that ſame Perſons ſays he has now 500 *l.* dead Stock lying by him in one Article, whereas formerly he did not uſe to have above 10 or 15 *l.* of it.

Obſ. I am ſorry to hear ſuch Accounts, *Roger*. Theſe are vaſt Diſproportions; and ſince the Perſon that ſends them, is a Man of Probity, and ſpeaks from his own Knowledge, we can't doubt the Truth of 'em.

Country-m. He adds, Maſter, that he has formerly taken 40 *l. per* Week on one Article of the Trade, whereas he does not now take 1 *s.* upon it. Nor is there any other Branch of the Trade to ballance it; ſo that he has been forc'd to turn off his Work-men, after keeping them ſo long as to increaſe his dead Stock, to the Proportion above-mention'd: That this is not his Caſe alone, but that of moſt Maſter Work-men; nor do they know how much they may loſe of the prime Coſt of their dead Stock, by the Change of the Faſhion, before the Mourning be at an End, beſides the Loſs of the Intereſt of ſo much Money, and the Stop to the Trade in ge-

neral,

neral, which has reduc'd the Journey-men and their Families to a State of Beggary.

Obj. You know the common Answer, *Roger*, They may betake themselves to other Employments, and what's lost to one Trade, is gain'd by another; the Clothiers and Woollen-drapers must make and sell Black, when they can't dispose of others; and 'tis the same to the Taylors, or rather better, for it occasions more Trade to them, than otherwise they would have had; and the like to the Linnen-drapers and Seamstresses, because it obliges People to change their Linnen.

Country-m. That Answer has nothing in it, Master. People who have serv'd Apprenticeships to one Trade, can't well apply themselves to another, or if they could, there's no Employment for them, there being at present many more Hands than Work; besides, they cannot make such Earnings at other Employments, as those who have been constantly bred to 'em; and if they be employ'd that Way, others must be turn'd out, which makes it as broad as 'tis long. Then, as to the Clothiers, Woollen-drapers, Taylors, Linnen-drapers, and Seamstresses, they cry out, that general Mournings affect them as much as others, because it leaves the colour'd Cloths of the first two, as a Drug upon their Hands; such of the Taylors as are Salesmen, and that's not a few, make the like Complaint; and the other Taylors lose a great deal, both in their Workmanship, and the Profits of Trimmings, which to them is considerable; and in the same Manner it affects Silver and Gold Lace-makers, Button-makers, Milliners, and Mercers; the Linnen-drapers are also affected, because it lessens their Sale; for People don't use so much Linnen, when in Mourning, as on other Occasions; and this also affects the Seamstresses, and Makers of all Sorts of white Lace. Besides, Master, these general Mournings occasion a great deal of *Spanish* Wool[1] to be us'd in fine black Cloath, which hinders the Consumption of our own, that is the great Staple of the Nation, and carries Money to those who are our profess'd Enemies, and at open War with us.

Obj. I must own, *Roger*, that you have given a very solid Answer to the Objection. But we must reserve this Subject to our next, since there's so much to be said upon it, and talk a little more of the flaming Doctor.

Country-m. Who do you mean, Master? Is it my L---d M------r's F---l?

Obj. You must not call Men of his Cloath by such Names, *Roger*.

Country-m. I have very good Authority for what I say, Master. A certain Great Lord having a Mind to promote one of his Chaplains, got him to preach before King *Charles* the IId, when the Doctor forgetting himself in his Prayer before Sermon, he pray'd a great deal more for his Patron, whom he expres'd by Name, than he did for the King: Upon which, my Lord chid the Doctor when he had done, and told him, *Tho' he had a Mind to show himself a F---l, the D---l was in him to tell all the World whose F---l he was.* Now, Master, I take this to be very applicable to the flaming Doctor's Dedication of his Sermon; for which I think he should rather have been sent to eat Hay with my Lord's Great Horse, than carry'd in Triumph in his Coach, and set at his own Table; for by this he does as much as he can to make his Lordship a Partaker in his own and the Faction's Sins.

Obj. You Country-men will talk after your own Way, *Roger*. But what Paper is that you are pulling out?

Country-m. 'Tis a Paper, Master, from the Author of the Reflexions on Dr. *Sacheverell*'s Sermon before my Lord Mayor, wherein he complains, that he is misunderstood; as if p. 19. he had charg'd the Interpolation of the 20th Article of our Church upon Arch-bishop *Laud*.

Obj. What does he say in his Vindication, *Roger*? for I have heard several People complain of that.

Country-m. He says, Master, that it proceeds from their not reading the Paragraph attentively, where 'tis plain he charges that Interpolation upon the High Church. The Paragraph begins thus, *But there's another Question which comes yet more close upon the High Church, and the Reputation of their Patriarch Arch-bishop* Laud, *for not only innovating, but altering the* 20th *Article of the Church.* He says the Words, *and the Reputation of their Patriarch Arch-bishop* Laud, which the Printer has put only betwixt two Comma's, should have been put in a Parenthesis, to which, tho' two Comma's be equal, it is not so obvious to common Readers; but 'tis plain from what follows, that these Words between two Comma's relate only to the Arch-bishop's maintaining that Interpolation, by alledging it falsly, that it was found so in the Records of his Office, and this, he says, he'll justify for Arch-bishop *Parker*, who bequeath'd the Original to *Bennet*-College in *Cambridge*, sign'd by the Hands of those who compos'd the Articles, would never have suffer'd a Copy different from it, to be put into his own, Office, for he was Arch-bishop of *Canterbury* in 1562, when Queen *Elizabeth*'s Articles were fram'd, and likewise in 1571, when they were confirm'd afresh, and printed by the Queen's Authority, as appears by *Godwin, de Præsulibus Angliæ*, p. 217. He adds, Master, that the Articles were ratify'd the first Time in Parliament that very Year, as is evident by 13 *Eliz.* Cap. 12. And no Man can suppose that the Queen's Printers would dare to publish them in her Name, and at that very Time too, any otherwise than as they were ratify'd by the Parliament and Convocation, which establishes the Authority of the printed Copy in 1571, left with Mr. *Darby* by the Author of the Reflexions, beyond all Possibility of Dispute; and since the Act of Parliament of the 13th of *Eliz.* Cap. 12. expressly says, That the Articles then ratify'd, were those agreed upon by the Arch-bishops and Bishops of both Provinces, and the whole Clergy in Convocation holden at *London*, in 1562, it fixes an indelible Note of Falshood upon Arch-bishop *Laud*, destroys the Credit of all that he said in Defence of the Interpolation, in his *Star-Chamber* Speech the 14th of *June*, 1637, and the Authority of the contrary Copies he there referr'd to, as it confirms the Authority of the *Bennet*-Colledge Original; for no Body will put the Arch-bishop's bare Assertion in the Ballance against the Authority of Queen, Parliament, and Convocation; from all which, the Author of the Reflexions concludes, Master, that he has unanswerably prov'd this Interpolation of the 20th Article upon High-Church, and the Falshood of their Patriarch, Arch-bishop *Laud*, in defending it, let 'em get off on't how they can. What he says more on this Subject, we must reserve to our next.

Advertisements.

The Truth of the Matter.

☞ John Marten, of Hatton-Garden, lately a Servant to Mr. Green, who keeps an Apothecary's Shop, in Thay-Street, being indicted for publishing, &c. an obscene Libel, commonly call'd his Appendix, &c. was on Tuesday last acquitted at the Queen's-Bench in Westminster-Hall (not, as is falsely-represented in Yesterday's lying Supplement, but) for Want of EVIDENCE.

Just publish'd,

☞ The Navy Royal, or a Sea-Cook turn'd Projector, containing a few Thoughts about manning our Ships of War with the best of Sailors, without Violences, and in the most pleasing Manner, according to the fourth Article of a late Proposal, publish'd by our worthy Chaplain of her Majesty's Ship the Lyme. By Barnaby Sluth, Cook of the said Ship. Price bd. 1 s. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Where may be had, the Wooden World dissected, by the same Author. Price bound 1 s.

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